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inches broad and 12 to 15 inches long. Some of the men found that the leaves, dry, were a good substitute for tobacco, and were soon puffing a cloud.

*July 31.*—Spelled here to-day to boil down camel. The remnants of a broken gourd we found here; it has been used as a vessel for carrying water; it was the size of a large cocoa-nut, with a neck about 6 inches long, through one side of which they had drilled a hole for a cord for slinging on their arms.

*August 1.*—In camp.

*Saturday, Aug. 2.*—Started at 8:53 A.M., course east by north, each man taking with him a certain weight of the boiled camel before him, as we are now reduced to 11 horses, one alone with pack-bags. After travelling for some 9 or 10 miles, we came upon the tracks of bullocks, quite fresh, and shortly after were gratified by the sight of the bullocks themselves, with two white men tailing them. We soon now were pitching into roast-beef and damper, and, don't let me forget, potatoes, salt, and mustard. The station belongs to Messrs. Harvey and Somers, and is situated on the River Bowen, a stream that flows northward into the Burdekin. Mr. Somers was not in on our arrival; he soon, however, came in, and we were most hospitably received by him. The flour, during the night and for some few days after, had the most astonishing effect on all of us, from the fact that our digestive organs could not digest the bread, being so accustomed to the easily-digested meat; we were most of us in great pain, and our legs and feet swelled very much.

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3.—(a). *Extracts from Report of W. LANDSBOROUGH, in command of the Queensland Burke Relief Expedition, to Captain NORMAN, with reference to the Albert River.*

Sweer's Island, 8th October, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to inform you of the following particulars with regard to the Albert River:—On Tuesday morning (the 1st inst.), at 8 o'clock, we reached the mouth of the Albert River, at the sandy beach of Kangaroo Point. With the exception of Kangaroo Point, on the east bank, the river has an unbroken fringe of mangrove to a point 2 miles in a straight line from its mouth, and an unbroken fringe to a point 3 miles in a straight line from the mouth on the other side of the river. Above these points the lower part of the river has (where the edges have no mangrove)

fine, hard, sandy, sloping banks, which are well adapted for landing horses or goods. We found that the water was fresh when we reached Alligator Point, about 20 miles in a straight line from the mouth of the river; above this point the fringes of mangrove are scarce on the edges of the river, and back from the river there is rising ground, consisting of fine, well-grassed, and slightly timbered downs. At sunset we anchored at a point about 26 miles in a straight line from the mouth of the river, where a river from the southward, which Mr. Woods called the Barkly, joins the Albert River.

On going on shore on the western bank of the Albert River, I found within a hundred yards of it a water-hole at which it would be more convenient to water stock than the river, as the banks of the latter are at this point too steep. Above the junction of the Barkly, the Albert River is not navigable even for boats, owing to the number of snags. On the following morning we went up the Barkly on the barge for about 2 miles, to where it was too full of snags to proceed further up the river by water; we then took a walk over the "Plains of Promise," and crossed at a point about 3 miles from where we had left the barge. Where we crossed the Barkly it had a narrow muddy bed, the water in which was cool from its being shaded with pandanus, palms, and Leichhardt trees. A short distance lower we re-crossed by a tree, which the carpenter felled for that purpose, at a point where the deep water in it is caused in some measure by the rise of the tide; afterwards we followed down the river to the barge. At different places we marked the trees, but did not see any that had been marked previously, nor indeed any traces of any European parties. After walking over the "Plains of Promise," we went down the river, and anchored opposite the point where the cliffs are mentioned in the charts as 30 feet high. In the morning I went, with two native troopers, north-westerly over slightly timbered grassy plains, and reached in about a mile a water-hole, and in about another mile a narrow mere, which I called Woods Lake, extending northerly and southerly at least for a mile or so in an unbroken sheet of water. I went southward along the edge of Woods Lake to a clump of box and tea trees, and while I was marking a tree, Jackie shot (chiefly with one discharge of his gun) about half-a-dozen of whistling ducks and a large grey crane. The bank on which I marked the tree will, probably at no very distant time, be chosen as the site of a home-stand for a sheep establishment, as it is surrounded by fine dry plains, which are covered with good grasses, among which I observed sufficient saline herbage to make me feel satisfied that they are well adapted for sheep-runs. As the wind was unfavourable during the afternoon, the crew had to row down the river. On the following morning we went ashore and got water, in a

water-hole near the bank, and also firewood off an old fallen tree, which, I think, is probably the real ebony. Late in the evening we reached a point on the eastern bank about 3 miles above Kangaroo Point. We went ashore, and in the course of a walk started on the wing two large bustards, and also, within shot of us, two or three wallabies.

In our way up and down the river the temperature ranged on the bar from  $74^{\circ}$  to  $94^{\circ}$ . The nights were agreeable, and we were fortunately not troubled with mosquitoes or sand-flies.

On the upper part of the river we saw altogether three crocodiles, but they were so shy that they remained in sight only a few seconds.

The slightly timbered downs and plains on the banks of the Albert River are, as I hoped they would be from their western position, of a similar character to good inland settled sheep country of New South Wales and Queensland; the trees that we saw are all small; but as sheep do best in Australia where the temperature is dry, the soil rich, and slightly timbered, and as this is the general description, I believe, of the country and climate of the Albert River, the sheep-farmer should be willing to put up with the inconvenience caused from the want of good timber for building purposes.

We saw large quantities of the small white cockatoos, and the rose-coloured ones, which are to be found only in the inland settled country of New South Wales and Queensland. The Albert River being navigable, will make the country on its banks very valuable, as I believe sheep will do well on it, more especially as they do well on inferior-looking country within the tropics to the north-west of Rockhampton.

Allow me to recommend for the dépôt which you propose forming with the *Firefly* hulk\* on the Albert River, some place as convenient as possible to Woods Lake, or the water-hole which I mentioned that I had found near the head of the navigation.

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Albert River, Gulf of Carpentaria, 15th October, 1861.

Shortly after midnight of the 14th October, at the flood of the tide, which occurs here only once in twenty-four hours, we stood in for the mouth of the river, and, as the channel is of a winding character, and the *Firefly* hulk† almost unmanageable, we had to

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\* The *Firefly* had been wrecked on Sir Charles Hardy's Island (about  $11^{\circ} 50' S.$   $143^{\circ} 48' E.$  ?) but having been got off, was brought round with great trouble, and made into a dépôt.—[Ed.]

† The instructions were to take her to the head of navigation in the *Albert*, there to serve as a dépôt for both Walker's and Landsborough's expeditions.—[Ed.]

take her right over the bar. On the 16th, from the time of the tide, the wind being unfavourable, we had reached no further than Norman's Group of Islands, which are about 10 miles in a straight line from the mouth of the river. At that place, from the small quantity of water on board, it became necessary to decide on what bank the horses should be landed; consequently three parties started in search of water—a boat and two land parties. The former, under the command of Mr. Frost, found a good pond of water near the lowest water we had found when we first explored the Albert River. In the same neighbourhood Mr. Campbell's party, who went up the west bank of the river, found another water-hole, which was distant from the ship, by the road they went, about 4 miles, and passable for the horses, although partly over mud flats, which during high tides are covered with water; and on that account I thought, having observed the country to be very low from the masthead, it would be impassable. I accompanied Mr. Bourne, Mr. Hennie the botanist, and two native police-troopers, to the eastward, in search of water. In that direction we went about 6 miles, which was further than was necessary, as we found water within that distance. The first 3 miles we went were chiefly over hard flats, which at high tides are covered with water; the next were over such good country that Mr. Bourne, although I had given him my account of the "Plains of Promise," said he did not expect to have seen such fine country on the Albert River. The character of the country is plains with the best grasses on them. Mr. Bourne and I agreed in thinking that the lowest of them (with the exception of there being on them no cotton and cabbage salt-bush) resembled in appearance, and from their having salty herbage in abundance, some parts of the Murrumbidgee Plains. The higher parts are more thickly grassed, and are slightly wooded with stunted timber, consisting of box, apple, white gum, cotton, and other trees. The cotton-trees I had never seen before; but Mr. Hennie told me they had been found by Dr. Müller, when in Mr. Gregory's party, in the expedition to Northern Australia. On this country we found abundance of water-holes, some of which were divided from each other by sandstone dykes, and contained some fresh and others brackish water. The north-easterly water-hole I named Müller Lake. It is a fine long sheet of water, which is brackish, but not to such an extent as to render it undrinkable.

On the 17th the ship was taken alongside of the western bank of the river, and a landing-stage having been made, twenty-three of the horses were walked on shore and driven up to Frost's Ponds.

On the 20th Messrs. Bourne, Moore, Frost, and two troopers, started up the river on a shooting and land excursion. I accompanied them to near Frost's Ponds, where the horses were running

and I was glad to find the latter were doing well, as I expected they would do, from the herbage of the plains in that neighbourhood being of the most fattening character. Late in the evening our sportsmen returned, and gave a most glowing description of about 8 miles of the plains they had crossed in going to and returning from some water-holes they had found, one of which was within  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile of the river. As they made their excursion an exploring rather than a sporting expedition, they shot very little, although they saw several wallabies on the plains, and crowds of duck and other aquatic fowl at the water-holes they passed in the course of their walk.

From twenty-two observations, chiefly taken during the day, the temperature has ranged from  $69^{\circ}$  to  $89^{\circ}$ , and averaged a fraction over  $80^{\circ}$ . On the 29th we had a few drops of rain, which reminded us that we had hardly had any since we started from Brisbane, upwards of a couple of months ago.

My party went in search of the horses yesterday, and returned with them to-day to the place where the ship was aground, a point about 15 miles in a straight line from the mouth of the river. The horses were so fresh,\* that to hobble them two of the quietest had to be caught, to round with them the others up. In the ten days that they had been ashore they had improved more in condition than any horses I have seen do in other parts of Australia in a similar period. To collect the horses, they had to go as far as 10 miles in a N.W. direction, to a salt-water creek, which, from Mr. Campbell's report, I believe is the River Nicholson. On the following day I accompanied Mr. Campbell and the troopers to the Nicholson River. The water in it we found not so brackish as that part of the Albert River where we left the ship. I was surprised to find it was not so broad as the river I have just mentioned. On the 30th we returned to the ship, after getting the troopers to collect the horses and shoot a quantity of ducks. By counting my steps I made the distance 7 miles to a bend of the Albert River near which Moore's Ponds are situated, and  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles further brought us to the point near which the ship had reached. It is a grassy plain between the two rivers, with a few stunted trees upon it; that nearest the Nicholson River is the poorest soil, and the grass at present upon it is very much parched up. A fine large enclosure for stock might be formed by running a fence across from the Albert to the Nicholson River.

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\* The freshness of the horses was surprising: because so soon after the hardships of their voyage, and the destruction of their forage on board the *Firefly* by sea water, they were chiefly sustained, from Hardy's Island till landing at Carpentaria, by grass, cut by our party: this was a task of some difficulty, as we had no implements for doing so excepting our knives.